

REMARKS

Claims 22-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 22-42 for clarity without narrowing the claims. Further, claim 22 is amended to recite a feature recited in original claim 2; page 10, lines 5-13; page 18, lines 5-12; and Figs. 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully request consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references submitted in Applicants' August 16, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of independent claim 22.

In particular, EP 1 089 364 (determined to be most relevant by the European Patent Office), at least fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "connecting the first piece and the second piece with the connecting agent by locally heating the second piece with a predetermined amount of energy, for a first duration of time, to only melt the connecting agent," as recited in claim 1. Rather, as shown in at least Figs. 1, 2, 3B, 3C, and 4, and described in at least paragraphs [0018] and [0019] of EP 1 089 364, in addition to the solder material 5, the collector layer 4 is also melted to form molten beads 7 when the electron beam 6 is applied to collector layer 4. Thus, more than only the solder material 5 is melted.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 22-42.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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